

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Further to the requests made in the responses dated October 7, 2004; November 12, 2003; and January 12, 2004, Applicants again respectfully request that a copy of an initialed PTO-1449 (corresponding to the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on August 25, 1999) be forwarded with the next USPTO communication.

The objection to the term "principal" has been withdrawn as noted in the Advisory Action dated May 11, 2005.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to address the issues raised in the office action regarding "additional language". Consequently, withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 7 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.¹ Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7 and the intervening claims 2, 4 and 6 and claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9. Certain amendments have been made to even better conform the language of the dependent claims with the language of the independent claims into which they have been incorporated. As such, these claims are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 1 and claims 10, 19 and 20 depend from claim 8. These claims are likewise believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-7, 9, 11-16 and 21-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and without acquiescence in any outstanding rejection of (or objection to) these claims.

Because these amendments are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, entry is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested.

¹ Based on a telephone conference with Examiner Phan, Applicants understand that the discussion of claim 7 on page 13 of the office action is erroneous.

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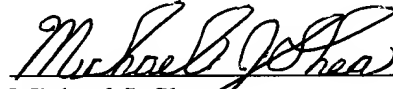
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Response to Office Action dated January 25, 2005

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

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